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Subsection 4.1.7 Bathrooms for Licensed Group Child Care Homes, Licensed Child Care Centers and License-Exempt Child Care Facilities	Revised May 2008

BATHROOMS

Cleaned as needed or at least daily. [19 CSR 30-60.090 (1) (A), (2) (A), 19 CSR 30-62.082 (3) (A) 7.]

Note:

When determining if a violation is present, the inspector should assess whether the current conditions are due to not cleaning the bathroom often enough or are the conditions observed occurring because of normal use by children. A strong urine odor, mold and filth buildup is indications that the bathroom is not cleaned when needed.

Reason

Bathrooms are primary areas where germs from feces are found. If bathrooms are not cleaned regularly, they can become a source for the spread of disease.

Correction Time Frame

Bathrooms must be cleaned as soon as notified. A routine cleaning schedule should be established to ensure bathrooms are clean.

Paper towels stored and dispensed in a manner that minimizes contamination. All equipment in good repair. [19 CSR 30-60.090 (2) (B) and (C) 19 CSR 30-62.082 (3) (A) 1., 3. and 4.]

- All sinks, urinals and toilets that are required based on the capacity of the facility shall be in good repair, in working order and be supplied with water under pressure.
- All paper towel and toilet paper dispensers shall also be in good repair and in working order.

Reason

Broken fixtures and dispensers can lead to an over use of other equipment and can lead to unsanitary conditions.

Correction Time Frame

All required sinks, toilets and urinals shall be repaired within an agreed upon time frame but not to exceed 30 days. During the interim the provider is required to insure remaining fixtures are operational and bathroom conditions are sanitary. If no fixtures are operational, the facility must close until normal operations can be maintained.

Facilities approved AFTER October 31, 1991, have bathrooms enclosed with full walls and solid doors; doors closed when not in use. [19 CSR 30-60.090 (2) (E), 19 CSR 30-62.052 (1) (B)]

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Reason

Feces can contain disease-causing organisms. Flies and other insects are attracted to feces. If there is not floor to ceiling walls with the door closed, flies travel to the bathroom and carry disease-causing germs to other parts of the facility. Also the disease organisms can become air borne and contaminate other parts of the facility. Having the door closed helps prevent these organisms from spreading throughout the facility. In order to reduce the risk of disease transmission, full walls and solid doors are required for all facilities approved after 10/31/91.

Note: Younger children must be monitored while in the bathroom. Alternative methods have been used to fulfill the solid door requirement and the need to monitor children. Doors with Plexiglas windows have been used. If older children and caregivers use the bathroom, blinds can be installed for this purpose. The blinds can be closed when privacy is needed and opened when younger children are using it. The bathroom door can also be open when monitoring is needed and closed when not occupied.

Note:

Pre School programs that have bathrooms located away from the childcare area are not required to have doors on bathrooms. Pre School programs that have bathrooms that open to or are connected to the approved childcare area must comply with this requirement.

Correction Time Frame:

New facilities cannot be approved until bathrooms are fully enclosed and full doors are installed. Existing facilities that were approved after 10/31/91 may have a year to comply with this requirement. Bathroom doors that are opened when not in use during the inspection must be corrected at that time.

Facilities approved AFTER October 31, 1998, mechanically vented to prevent molds and odors. [19 CSR 30-60.090 (1) (E), 19 CSR 30-62.052 (1) (B), 19 CSR 30-62.082 (3) (A) 7.]

Reason

Ventilation is an important factor in reducing odors and reducing the transmission of diarrheal illnesses. The aerosols produced by the flushing of toilets and urinals enables disease organisms to travel into the rest of the facility if not contained by mechanical ventilation. Safely constructed window fans are acceptable if the blades are not accessible to the children and it remains on at all times during facility operation.

Correction Times Frame

All facilities applying for licensure or approval (License Exempt) must have mechanical ventilation before they are approved.

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Hand washing sinks located in or immediately adjacent to the bathroom.

[19 CSR 30-60.090 (2) (B), 19 CSR 30-62.082 (3) (A) 1., 19 CSR 30-62.052 (1) (B)]

Hand washing sinks must be located so they are immediately convenient for the use of children and caregivers. Some providers prefer to locate their hand washing facilities outside the bathroom to supervise hand washing. This is acceptable if the hand sink is located so that it is immediately accessible after leaving the bathroom. A common guide used is no more than 8 feet from the bathroom. After leaving the bathroom, the child or caregiver must not travel through another doorway to utilize the hand-washing sink.

Reason

If sinks are not convenient for use, children and caregivers are less likely to wash their hands when needed.

Correction Time Frame

Within thirty days of notification or before the inspection due date.

No carpeting or absorbent floor covering. [19 CSR 30-60.090 (1) (A), 19 CSR 30-62.052 (1) (B)]

Reason

Bathrooms in larger childcare facilities are used more and need cleaning more often. Carpets retain moisture and allow molds to grow and odors to build. Carpets are not easily cleanable and may cause unsanitary conditions in the bathroom.

Correction Time Frame

Within thirty days of notification or before the inspection due date.

Sufficient lighting for cleaning. [19 CSR 30-62.052 (1) (B)]

Reason

Adequate lighting is imperative for proper cleaning.

Correction Time Frame

Within thirty days of notification or before the inspection due date.

No storage of toothbrushes or mouthable toys. [19 CSR 30-62.052 (1) (B)]

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- Storage of bathroom cleaners is acceptable if they are stored out of reach of children. Also art supplies and similar materials are acceptable if stored in cabinets.
- Items such as children's toys that will be mouthed, pacifiers, cups, may not be stored in the bathroom.
- Items that will not be mouthed such as art supplies and clean clothes may be stored in the bathroom if they are stored in an enclosed cabinet or sealed container.

Reason

Food, food related items, medicines, mouthable toys, toothbrushes and drinking cups should not be stored in the bathroom. They can become contaminated with fecal material and spread disease to those that use them.

Correction Time Frame

At the time of inspection.